

IN THE DRAWINGS

Please replace sheet 3 of 5 of the drawings with the attached replacement sheet.

On sheet 3 of 5, Figure 3 has been amended to break away a portion of the threaded sleeve 2 and the counter sleeve 3 in order to show the terminal insert, now indicated as 22.

REMARKS

Claims 1-14 stand allowed in the present application and a Notice of Allowance was issued on June 13, 2006. In the accompanying Notice of Allowability, corrected drawings were required in order to show the terminal insert, now labeled as 22, in the drawings. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and entry of this 312 Amendment.

Applicants respectfully submit that the amendment to paragraph [0035] of the Specification and the amendment to Figure 3 of the drawings was fully supported in the original application. Original paragraph [0035] specifically references showing the "counter-sleeve 3 cover[ing] the terminal insert with a ring-like contact," "with such a ring-like contact surface during tightening of the thread... the terminal insert is deformed and pressed radially against the body 4." The amendment to Figure 3 is to specifically show these features referred to in the original Specification. Accordingly, applicants respectfully submit that no new matter has been introduced into the application by these amendments and that the amendment to both the Specification and drawings merely show subject matter already fully disclosed in the application.

In addition, the terminal insert is specifically referred to in the Specification at paragraph [0034] and [0035] as being of the type known from EP 0 528 233 B1. It is noted in the July 20, 2004 IDS that this reference is equivalent to U.S. 5,378,027. While it is believed that this subject matter is sufficiently described in the original Specification to support the drawing amendment, if it is believed that essential material was improperly incorporated by reference to a foreign patent, the material

has now been specifically included by the present amendment. In accordance with MPEP §608.1(P)(2), the filing date of the filing date of the application is not affected and this should not be considered new matter. If required, applicants hereby declare that the amendatory matter consists of the same material incorporated by reference in the referencing application.

Alternatively, Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to the drawings if the 312 amendment is not to be entered. 37 CFR 1.83(a) requires drawings “where necessary for the understanding of the subject matter sought to be patented.” Here, the “terminal insert” at issue is clearly indicated in the specification as being of the type known in the prior art, as noted at paragraphs [0034] and [0035] of the specification. Additionally, illustrating this feature is not required to facilitate an understanding of the invention, as the terminal insert is not even part of the connection between the coupling collar or flange and the counterpart located at the through opening of the housing or wall which address the objective of the invention.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully requested that the present 37 C.F.R. §1.312 Amendment be entered or that the requirement for the drawing correction be withdrawn.

If the Examiner has any questions or there are any issues that are raised by the present amendment, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact the undersigned by telephone as soon as possible.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosure